

SITUATION REPORT NO. 14
INCIDENT NO. 2004-021
DATE: June 25, 2004 Time: 11:00 a.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: **Severe Storms and Spring Flooding** induced by heavy precipitation on saturated ground.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No deaths or injuries have been reported.
3. DAMAGES: The National Weather Service (NWS) indicates there have been no significant precipitation events in north central and north eastern North Dakota since the Memorial Day weekend at the beginning of June. There have been some spotty thunderstorms, which have had some significant impact on localized areas, but no widespread damages have been reported. Temperatures have been below normal (4.5 degrees below normal in Grand Forks). In the next week, temperatures are expected to return to normal and above normal with little chance of any significant precipitation. Conditions will change with an increased chance of deepening thunderstorms and the possibility of precipitation events of one inch or greater toward the end of the week. There has been some early morning frost, with temperatures in the low 30s, but this has had no significant impact on crops.

The State Water Commission (SWC) indicates flow along the Jerusalem Coulee- from Devils Lake to Stump Lake- is dependent on the elevation of Devils Lake. Under normal precipitation conditions, which is being forecast by the NWS, Devils Lake should rise slightly over the next two weeks, then stabilize and possibly lower slightly. Devils Lake is expected to go into freeze up at about 1,448 feet. Currently Devils Lake is flowing to Stump Lake at 217 cubic feet per second (cfs); it will continue at this pace or slightly increase as Devils Lake goes up and precipitation events take place. The flow is causing little erosion so deepening of the channel is not currently a factor in the flow. Stump Lake is being projected to reach 1,425 feet by freeze up, with current levels at 1,419.94 feet. As Devils Lake stabilizes and goes down expect the flows to go down. With Devils Lake at an elevation of 1,448 feet flows to Stump will likely be below 100 cfs.

A new NWS forecast says Devils Lake will peak about a half-foot lower than projected last month, but officials are dealing with record high water that is causing problems with infrastructure, particularly roads. The outlook projects a peak at 1,449.1 feet later this summer.

McHenry County

Damage estimates include gravel wash, soft/saturated roads, water on/over roads, trenches/holes in and along roads, bridge and culvert repair.

Pierce County

Based upon local reports and consultation with commissioners and Township leaders, the following damages have been identified: Damages to roads, culverts, farmlands, homes, and other Pierce County infrastructure. On June 21, the county requested a preliminary disaster assessment to be done.

Renville County

Renville County reported water damages to residential basements. The County Emergency Manager received 47 phone calls from individuals with water in their basements, since Friday, June 11. The majority of calls are from people with seepage and sump pumps that are not keeping up and/or have failed. Additional problems include heaving and cracking floors and damage to carpeting, sheetrock and cement because of the alkaline content of the water. One resident is considering replacing his furnace. The Emergency Manager has advised them to document the damages and keep track of associated costs. The Red Cross has cleanup kits available. As of June 15, Renville County had received 14.43 inches of precipitation (snow/rain) in the months of May and June.

Walsh County

The County Emergency Manager reports following overland flooding, life is getting back to normal. Most residents affected by the water have registered with the Salvation Army, but many have purchased what was destroyed (hot water heaters, furnaces) and are ineligible for help. The Emergency Manager adds many of the Grafton residents had dropped their flood insurance because they thought they were protected by the dike. Homeowner insurance won't cover the overland flooding and they are angry over the situation.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The Salvation Army Service Extension Representative for the Northeast portion of North Dakota has been busy delivering Clean Up kits to the following places: Devils Lake, ND 100 Kits; Griggs County 33 Kits; Cando (Towner County) 60 Kits; New Rockford (Eddy County) 60 Kits; Benson County 100 Kits; Finley (Steele County) 10 Kits. The Salvation Army case manager has been working on case files for disaster response agencies out of Grand Forks.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS:

On June 24, Governor Hoeven announced FEMA Director Michael Brown will be visiting the Devils Lake area on Thursday, July 1 to survey the flooding damage.

On June 24, Governor Hoeven proclaimed a flood transportation emergency for Benson and Ramsey counties. Pursuant to the provisions of the North Dakota Disaster Act of 1985, as amended (Chapter 37.17.1, North Dakota Century Code), this proclamation, and the executive orders of regulations that may be issued to implement this proclamation to mitigate those losses resulting from the continuation of this flood disaster, shall have the force and effect of law.

On June 21, NDDEM received Amendment #2 to FEMA-State Agreement FEMA-1515-DR-ND which establishes the incident period as March 26, 2004 through June 14, 2004

An Applicant Briefing for Public Assistance was held for six add-on counties in Bottineau on Friday, June 18. The six add-ons are Bottineau, Burke, Mountrail, Renville, Towner and Ward counties.

The Pierce County Commission adopted an emergency declaration due to excessive rainfall on June 15.

On June 14, the Turtle Mountain Reservation declared a disaster due to excessive storms and wind driven rains, high ground water and damage to access roads. Tribal homes, roads, and septic/sewer systems are experiencing damages the tribe is unable to remedy on its own.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No changes from previous reports.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No changes from previous reports.

9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director